



STETSON HOST FAMILY PROGRAM

As part of our emergency preparedness plan, the College of Law has developed the Stetson Host Family Program. The program is designed to match members of the Stetson community and their families with other members of the Stetson community who are willing and able to provide shelter during and after a hurricane or other emergency conditions. We suggest that individuals who live in an evacuation zone and are not able to make alternate arrangements as part of their personal disaster planning consider participation in this program. We also encourage essential personnel whose close proximity to campus will be vital in any recovery efforts if the Gulfport campus sustains damage to participate.

Ideal candidates for hosting include those whose possibility of having to evacuate is remote, and who have the space available to reasonably accommodate others staying with them during emergency conditions. Some frequently asked questions about this program are answered below.

How do I sign up to be assigned to a host family?

Simply complete the *Request for Host Assignment Form*, **sign** the Hosting Conditions Agreement contained within the form, and turn the form into Human Resources. Human Resources is charged with matching those requesting a host assignment with those volunteering to provide it.

How can I volunteer to host?

Simply complete the *Host Family Volunteer Form*, **sign** the Host Family Release contained within the form, and turn the form into Human Resources. Human Resources will then match those requesting a host assignment and those volunteering to provide it.

What if I volunteer to host but then I cannot because I end up sustaining significant damage myself? Hosting may encompass both pre-storm evacuation and post-storm hosting for those who sustain damage to their homes during an emergency. If your situation changes and you can no longer host, simply notify Human Resources and that office will attempt to reassign the individuals you originally volunteered to host, or will direct them to available emergency shelters or aid agencies.

Am I considered “essential personnel” needed near campus for disaster recovery?

You should discuss with your supervisor what role you will be expected to play as part of both disaster preparedness and recovery, and then make your decisions accordingly. Remember, planning to care for your family comes first, but we encourage those deemed “essential” to make plans in advance for protecting their loved ones in the event they are expected to be needed by Stetson. The College of Law wants to provide a vehicle by which you can help in our recovery efforts but realize this can only happen if you are able to see that your family is cared for in times of crisis.

I don’t mind hosting but I am allergic to pets. How will this be handled? The forms used to implement the program allow ample opportunity to disclose any special conditions or

restrictions. Just make sure your needs are known so that individuals who need assistance can be appropriately matched based on their circumstances. For an issue like pets, disclose how many you have and the type. For hosting families, indicate whether pets will be allowed and any restrictions on type or number.

Why are releases required? Releases are standard in the comparable programs we have examined. Unfortunately, this type of program is beyond the scope of our typical activities, and it is always possible that unforeseen events can occur with risks that the College of Law simply cannot manage. That is why the program is completely voluntary. We encourage you to review the documents and determine for yourself whether the risk you assume is appropriate.

Do I have to bring anything with me if I go to a host home? The main thing is to bring yourself. However, emergency aid agencies tell us that everyone should plan for at least three days of food and water to sustain their personal needs (seven days for Pinellas County). Take this supply with you if you go to a host home so you do not create a burden for your host family. Remember to take your Stetson ID as well in case you need to return to campus, since emergency conditions in the area may result in limited access being permitted.

What if I am assigned someone to host and it just does not work out? As the property owner, you at all times retain the right to have someone leave your property, and all participants seeking a host family acknowledge your right to do so in writing as a condition of program participation. Simply ask the person to leave, and direct them to Human Resources. Human Resources will attempt to reassign the individuals you originally volunteered to host, or will direct them to available emergency shelters or aid agencies.

Other questions on the program or its implementation can be directed to the Associate Vice President for Legal Affairs and Human Resources.

Adopted September 2006; revised September 2008.